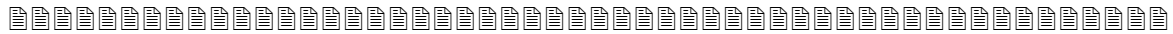


Epigraph Poem Assignment

For the past week, you have been searching for poems that you especially like. Now, you are to use one of them as the inspiration or “jumping-off point” for a poem of your own. You will respond in your poem to a quote you find compelling, extending OR rejecting what it suggests. Do not worry about whether readers know the original work. If they do, great! Clearly, knowing “Tell me a Story” by Robert Penn Warren would enrich a reading of “Letter to RPW On His 100th Birthday.” But even those who do not know Penn Warren’s poem can get the point, just as knowledge of The Duino Elegies is not necessary to enjoy “The Angel.” Perhaps, after reading your poem, someone will be motivated to find the work you quoted, just as you may now keep an eye out for the works of Penn Warren or Rilke!

To start, choose a single line to use as an epigraph, to focus your own poem. Remember, you may either extend the ideas in the original, or qualify or even reject them. Think of yourself as writing a poetic “letter” to the writer of the original, and to try to use at least two quotes from the original in the body of your poem. The first draft should be free verse—without rhyme or set rhythms.



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